



Whip Round Up

From the Office of the Assistant Democratic Leader



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Reid for Nevada

Reid Introduces Bill to Encourage Travel

• Senator Harry Reid introduced a bill to make business travel expenses tax deductible for spouses and children. The bill would encourage families to travel together, increase tourism, and create jobs in convention destinations such as Nevada.

Reid Works to Improve Education in Nevada

• In an effort to help rural schools attract quality teachers, Senator Reid introduced a bipartisan measure to give teachers in rural schools extra time to meet certification requirements established in the No Child Left Behind Act.

Reid Awarded for Efforts to Improve Education

• The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships named Senator Reid a "Champion of Student Success" for his long-time support of GEAR UP, a program to prepare low-income students for college.

Working with Nevadans

- Nevada Girl Scout leaders met with Senator Reid to discuss new programs in Nevada.
- Senator Reid visited with Senate Youth Program Honorees Stephanie Baez, from Reno, and Maria Urbina, from Carson City.
- Representatives of the Nevada Chapters of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Sandy Walsh, Marco Herrera, and Nicole Lamboley, met with Senator Reid to discuss their support for additional funding for diabetes research at the National Institutes of Health.



Reid's Words

Former Governor Mike O'Callaghan, who passed away Friday morning, has been an inspiration to me since I was 15 years old. Mike was my teacher in school, but didn't just teach me things out of a book - he also taught me how to fight, and how to stand up for what I believe. I will miss him, and Nevada will miss him.



Senator Reid meets with officials and members of the Nevada Association of County Officials, who thanked him for his ongoing efforts to increase funding for rural counties, and discussed fire prevention programs in the Silver State.

Week in Review

- **Budget Fight Looms** - The Senate Budget Committee, voting along party lines (12 to 10), approved a budget plan on Thursday fixing total discretionary spending at \$814 billion, some \$9 billion less than the target sought by the White House. The plan includes a Republican initiative to cut \$7 billion from defense spending and \$2 billion from domestic programs. Republicans were also able to defeat Democratic attempts to increase funding for veterans health care and homeland security, setting the scene for a contentious budget battle when the measure is brought to the floor next week.
- **Tax Bill Tackles Outsourcing** - A corporate tax bill designed to eliminate an export subsidy to American companies was amended by the Senate on Thursday to prohibit the outsourcing of federal contracts to overseas workers. The amendment, which exempts defense and homeland security contracts, passed by a 70 to 26 margin. The underlying tax measure (known as "FSC/ETI", S.1637) will be set aside during the consideration of the budget next week.
- **Reid Sets Hearing To Explore DOE Negligence** - Senator The Department of Energy has acknowledged that more than 1,000 workers at Yucca Mountain may have been exposed to toxic silica dust. The admission led to Congressional hearings to investigate what DOE officials knew and why they continued to send workers into Yucca Mountain with dangerous level of the toxic dust. The first hearing is set for Monday, March 15, 10 a.m. at the Clark County Government Building in Las Vegas.

INSIDER'S CALENDAR

- The Senate will convene Monday, March 8, at 12:00 noon, and begin consideration of the FY 2005 Budget Resolution. There will be no roll call votes on Monday.
- Under the Budget Act, the resolution is limited to 50 hours of debate. The Senate is expected to complete action on the resolution prior to the March recess.
- The Senate will not be in session during the week of March 15.